

BOOK REVIEW

GRASSES. A GUIDE TO THEIR STRUCTURE, IDENTIFICATIONS, USES, AND DISTRIBUTION IN THE BRITISH ISLES by C. E. HUBBARD (revised edition). Harmondsworth, Middlesex: Penguin Books, 1968. 463 pp. 156 plates of line drawings. Price R1.33.

This is a revised second edition of "Grasses" by the doyen of present day Agrostologists, Charles Edward Hubbard, formerly of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, now retired but still active in his chosen field. In the Preface to the second edition the additions and changes to this useful volume are summed up: four new species and several new plates are added, the notes on distribution are amended and extended following the publication of the "Atlas of the British Flora", the nomenclature is brought up to date and wherever possible additional information is incorporated in the text, keys, bibliography, glossary and indices.

The result is a work of the rare excellence one has come to expect from as exacting and meticulous a scientist as Dr. Hubbard. The black and white drawings accompanying the 156 species described were individually tested for recognition and if they failed this test were redone. As a result it is possible to name most grasses in the British Isles without recourse to a herbarium.

Brought out as a paperback it is fairly inexpensive (R1.33). The book is well bound, of a handy format and furnished with an attractive cover, somewhat marred by the superpositioning of the silhouette of a somewhat damaged herbarium specimen of a "non-British" species of *Setaria*. This was done by the publishers because "it catches the eye".

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